



CHALKWELL HALL JUNIOR SCHOOL

English Policy

Reviewed and Approved by:	Governing Body
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Date Reviewed:	March 2025
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Next Review Date:	March 2028
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Trust**

CHALKWELL HALL JUNIOR SCHOOL

ENGLISH POLICY

Intent

At Chalkwell Hall Junior School, English is taught in line with the national curriculum and its aims to promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping pupils with a strong command of the spoken and written language, and to develop their love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment.

The national curriculum for English aims to ensure that all pupils:

- read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
- acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage
- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences
- use discussion in order to learn; they should be able to elaborate and explain clearly their understanding and ideas
- are competent in the arts of speaking and listening, making formal presentations, demonstrating to others and participating in debate

Teaching and Learning Styles

At Chalkwell Hall Junior School we follow a cross curricular approach to learning that incorporates all subjects. Some English skills are taught discretely, but most of the time English is taught through topic work and alongside all other subjects.

We use a variety of teaching and learning styles in English lessons, following our Teaching and Learning policy which stresses creativity and personalised learning.

Our principal aim is to develop children's knowledge, skills, and understanding in English and their ability to apply these skills in other areas of learning. We strive to provide materials and topic areas that celebrate diversity and difference and inspire creativity.

Inclusion and Differentiation: (also see SEN policy)

All children must have regular access to English, appropriate to their stage of development. Challenge for all is integral to our teaching and we aim to encourage all pupils to reach their full potential through the provision of varied opportunities. Work must be differentiated to aid children's learning. Also, more-able children should be given open-ended tasks and be given opportunities for further research and more challenging studies. We recognise that our curriculum planning must allow pupils to gain a progressively deeper understanding and competency as they move through our school. Any specific individual's needs must be identified in their ISPs.

At times children with a specific need may receive additional intervention support from a member of staff to ensure that barriers to learning are minimised and progress is maintained.

Implementation

At Chalkwell Hall Junior School we use the National Curriculum as the basis for implementing the statutory requirements of the programme of study for English.

English, like all subjects at Chalkwell Hall Junior school, is planned for in a cross curricular, creative way.

Writing: A range of genres of writing are covered across Key Stage 2. These include Non-fiction, fiction and poetry, formal and informal texts. The majority of the genres are revisited by different year groups at least once, with the emphasis being on skill progression. The genres are taught through the creative cross curricular approach, making it relevant to the context and task.

Reading: We develop children's decoding skills through the use of the systematic phonics programme Read, Write, Inc. As a child's decoding skills become more secure our teaching aims to develop their vocabulary and the breadth and depth of their reading, making sure that they become independent, fluent and enthusiastic readers who read widely and frequently. We encourage pupils to develop their understanding and enjoyment of stories, poetry, plays and non-fiction, and learning to read silently through a range of activities. There is a wide variety of reading material in school for the children to select their own reading book. Some children may be given extra reading material by the class teacher to support or challenge their reading. Comprehension is taught throughout all subjects. Specific reading skills are taught through Guided reading activities.

Spoken Language: At Chalkwell Hall Junior School the statutory guidance contained in the National Curriculum is taught through all curriculum subjects.

Grammar, punctuation and spelling (GPS):

Spelling, punctuation and grammar are taught both discretely and throughout all written work.

Weekly spelling homework usually takes the form of investigations, with unseen word lists or dictations used to test the children's knowledge.

Twice a year every child will be tested with a Single Word Spelling Test to assess their spelling age and progress. Children will also complete the NFER GPS test, twice a year. The data collected will enable the school to monitor progress by spelling age and standardised scores.

Testing will take place in the first half term of the Autumn Term and the first half term of the Summer Term.

Handwriting:

Children are taught to use a cursive handwriting style adapted from The Handwriting file, Kath Balcombe (1998-2002).

The benefits of teaching cursive script are:

- It helps children's writing to be clear, fluent legible and fast.
- Having a lead in and out stroke avoids confusion about where to begin letter formation.
- The pencil does not often need to be lifted from the page which reinforces phonic and spelling patterns.

Assessment and recording

Formative assessment (Teacher assessment) forms the basis of our assessment in English.

At the end of Year 6 summative assessment (tests) take place in the form of SATs tests.

Formative assessment is underpinned by our Learning Ladder assessment tool and made on a daily basis to help us adjust our daily plans. Records of progress made towards mastery of the targets are made in discussions with pupils, recorded in the pupil books, with data input into the whole school online system regularly.

Regular monitoring of assessments takes place in Pupil Progress meetings held by the Senior Leadership Team with class teachers, where specific individual intervention can be planned for if required.

Resources

There are a range of resources to support the teaching of English across the school. All classrooms have a wide range dictionaries, thesauruses and class reading books. The Library is well stocked with fiction and non fiction books. A range of software is available to support work with the computers.

Monitoring and review

The Senior Leadership Team is responsible for monitoring the standard of the children's work and the quality of learning and teaching in English.

Consistency of the planning, the work produced and the marking by teachers is monitored across year groups and the whole school.

The Lead Teacher for English is responsible for supporting colleagues in the teaching of English, for being informed about current developments in the subject and for providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in the school.

The Lead Teacher for English will report the strengths and weaknesses in the subject and indicate areas for further improvement to the Headteacher.

E-Safety

Chalkwell Hall Junior School is fully committed to ensuring the safety of all staff, pupils and parents/carers with regard to all aspects of e-safety. Please refer to the E-Safety Policy for actions and sanctions for use of devices and internet, etc.

Impact

All children at CHJS, regardless of race, gender or ability, in reading will be supported to build confidence in all of these key areas: generating a love for reading; phonics; fluency; vocabulary; comprehension and phonemic awareness.

In writing, children will be supported to develop and use high quality vocabulary, accurate spelling and grammar in their writing and to understand the different structures that writing takes. We aim for every child to leave us with the skills of an accomplished writer.